

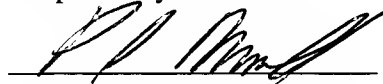
Remarks

This amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114, thereby withdrawing the appeal and reopening prosecution. The present amendment is made to more clearly define the present invention and distinguish from the cited art. The amendment is well-supported by the specification as originally filed, and Applicants respectfully request its entry without prejudice.

With respect to the Nataraj et al reference, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed invention of operating a reformer at a first gas mixture flow rate and oxidant:fuel ratio, and then removing a contaminant in the system by increasing the oxidant:fuel ration while reducing the gas mixture flow rate so as to increase the reformer temperature. Although the Nataraj et al reference teaches that the presence of steam (an oxidant) may be beneficial in preventing carbon deposition, there is nothing in the reference that suggests Applicants' claimed invention of increasing the oxidant:fuel ratio *and* decreasing overall gas mixture flow rate to increase temperature and remove contaminants. To the contrary, the Nataraj et al reference clearly teaches at col. 12, lines 51-52 that higher temperatures *favor* the formation of carbon via the cracking reaction (9), and thus *teaches away* from Applicants' claimed invention of increasing temperature to remove contaminants such as carbon. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is patentable over the cited art and request early favorable action.

Please charge any necessary fees, including any extension of time, or any other fee deficiencies to Delphi Technologies, Inc., Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully Submitted:



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